

## News & Events



**Aspire Center Opening:** With over 200 people in attendance and VIPs like Congresswoman Susan Davis and Interim Mayor Todd Gloria, the opening of the Aspire Center in Mission Valley on Feb. 17 was an overwhelming success! More details on the residential treatment facility can be found [here](#).



**High Five:** On April 1, VASDHS will extend its High Five program so patients can actively submit their positive [comments](#) from the convenience of waiting rooms around San Diego VA Medical Center and local outpatient clinics.



**Canteen Changes:** VASDHS aims, with the arrival of a new Canteen chief, to improve service at its canteen facilities. See the changes that are in store [here](#).



**Assistant Director Departs:** After more than a year of excellent service as assistant director for VASDHS, and 32 years of service with the VA, Silvana Hill retired at the end of March. Her position will be filled temporarily by Ada Clark, Network Operations Officer for VISN22.

## Media Hits



**Aspire Center:** The grand opening of our Aspire Center was covered by a wide range of local and national media. Among the outlets were [KPBS](#), [San Diego UT](#), [KGTV](#), [LA Times](#), [KNSD](#), [Coronado Patch](#), [KSWB](#), [THonline](#), [KFMB](#) and more.



**What Causes PTSD?:** [UT San Diego](#) interviewed Dr. Dewleen Baker on a study into what causes posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). According to early results in the study, traumatic brain injury may be an indicator of those afflicted by PTSD. The story was also covered by the Daily Caller [website](#).



**Shingles Vaccine:** Dr. Michael Oxman was featured in an [article](#) on the shingles vaccine for the most recent edition of VAnguard magazine. Check it out on page 26-27.

## Accomplishments & Awards



**Dr. Head Featured in VAnguard:** Dr. Brian Head was notified that he will receive the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers for his work in developing gene therapies used for treating patients with traumatic brain injury and posttraumatic stress disorder. The award will be given by the president at the White House later this year. Find Dr. Head on page 37.



**Top Doctors Honored:** San Diego Magazine recently released its list of top local doctors - many of whom serve our Veterans every day at our facilities. Among those names listed are: Judd Landsberg, Antoanella Calame, Steven Edelman, Gregory Daniels, Timothy Bigby, Samir Makani, Jose Loreda and more. To see the full list, please visit this [link](#).

## Upcoming Events



**Palm Sunday:** April 13

**Passover begins:** April 14

**Good Friday:** April 18

**SCI 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Open House:** April 25

**Cinco De Mayo:** May 5

**Mother's Day:** May 11

**VA2K:** May 21

**Memorial Day:** May 28